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## Agriculture, Mining, Forestry, and Fisheries

## NEW BOOKS

BLACK, C. C. *Corn production act, 1917. With explanatory memorandum.* (London: The Land Union. 1917. Pp. 80. 4s.)

COLLINGS, J. *The great war. Its lessons and its warnings.* (London: Rural World Pub. Co. 1917. Pp. 113.)

Emphasizes the need of reduction of the acreage in grass, intensive cultivation and division of agricultural lands, reclamation of waste lands, and state aid in order to meet the demands of war time.

CROOKES, SIR W. *The wheat problem.* Third edition. (New York: Longmans. 1917. Pp. xvi, 100. \$1.25.)

The precarious situation in which England finds herself with respect to a food supply, especially a supply of wheat, is the occasion for a new edition of this book. The body of the book is the presidential address of the author before the British Association for the Advancement of Science in 1898. The address was orthodox Malthusian doctrine tempered somewhat with a hope that the chemists would be able from time to time to give mankind a new lease of life by making possible a greater production of wheat. Speaking of the facts about to be presented the author says: "They show that England and all civilized nations stand in deadly peril of not having enough to eat. As mouths multiply, food resources dwindle." Twenty years ago the address called attention to the danger of not taking "necessary precautions to supply ourselves with the very first and supremely important munition of war—food." The author pointed out that while the United Kingdom imported 75 per cent of her wheat, it was by no means absurd to believe that it all could be grown at home. The great desideratum was nitrogen, but that could be obtained from the air—the Germans were so obtaining it.

Not only is England likely to be hungry for bread, but the wheat-eating world is growing in population while the wheat-producing acres are about all in use. What is needed is a thirty bushel crop in place of a thirteen bushel crop. It is admitted that the wheat area has expanded much beyond the prediction made in 1898, but it merely means a brief postponement of the evil day. Fertilizer, not more acres, is the hope. War is the immediate cause of alarm; famine the ultimate danger.

A concluding chapter by Sir R. Henry Rew gives an estimate of probable future wheat supplies. Moreover, he calls attention to the possibilities of making bread from other grains. The emergency measures of the food administration will make the country less dependent on importations.

B. H. HIBBARD.

DICK, W. J. *Carbonizing and briquetting of lignites. Economic possibilities.* (Ottawa: Commission of Conservation. 1917. Pp. 24.)

EARNSHAW-COOPER, W. *British industries after the war. I. The land industry.* (London: Cent. Committee Nat. Patriotic Organs. 1917. Pp. 52.)

HARLAN, C. L. *The agricultural situation and the food problem.* (Atlantic, Iowa: News Pub. Co. 1918. Pp. 17.)

JAMES, G. W. *Reclaiming the arid West; the story of the United States reclamation service.* (New York: Dodd, Mead. 1917. Pp. xxvii, 411. \$3.50.)

KELLOGG, V. and TAYLOR, A. E. *The food problem.* (New York: Macmillan. 1917. Pp. xiii, 213. \$1.25.)

The authors have succeeded in getting out a brief, clear statement of the present situation of our western European allies with regard to cereals, fat, meat, dairy products, and sugar, etc. The book is not limited to a general statement of the condition and need, but goes further and points out in "precise terms just what we must do, and how do it, to meet our duty in the matter as a nation and as individuals." The Allies must for humanitarian reasons and for success of arms consider themselves as having a sort of common cupboard whose supply must be most intelligently dispensed. As a description of the organization for food control in the various nations, emphasis is placed upon the difference between what these organizations *may* do and what they *can* do. The latter depends upon a great campaign of education by which the people can be persuaded to eliminate waste, and substitute foods, and finally actually lessen consumption—a thing that can only succeed through the actual support of public opinion. The drastic actions of England, France, and Italy for food saving and control make American sacrifice seem essential. Grains, meat, sugar, fat, the four essentials asked of us, are reviewed in detail for each of the countries above mentioned. There is also a discussion of Germany's food experience and European attempts at price control.

The second half of the book discusses the principles of food in relation to physical and psychological necessity and many practical suggestions for changes in food habits, for various substitutions, and for elimination of waste are here to be found.

HENRIETTA STEWART SMITH.

ORWIN, C. S. *The determination of farming costs.* (Oxford: Clarendon Press. 1917. Pp. 144. 5s.)

A report of the Institute for Research in Agricultural Economics. Contains bibliography.

SMITH, S. S. *The mining industry in the territory of Alaska during the calendar year 1916.* Bulletin 153. (Washington: Dept. of the Interior, Bureau of Mines. 1917. Pp. v, 89.)

SMITH-GORDON, L. and STAPLES, L. C. *Rural reconstruction in Ireland.* (London: King. 1918.)

STONE, R. W. *Gypsum products. Their preparation and uses.* Technical paper 155. Mineral technology 19. (Washington: Dept. of the Interior, Bureau of Mines. 1917. Pp. 67.)

TURNOR, C. H. *The land and the empire*. (London: John Murray. 1917. Pp. 144.)

*The coal catalog combined with coal field directory for the year 1918*. (Pittsburgh: Keystone Pub. Co. 1918. Pp. 650.)

*International year book of agricultural statistics, 1907-1916*. (Rome: International Institute of Agriculture. 1918. Pp. 1,000. \$2.)

*The production of copper, gold, lead, nickel, silver, zinc, and other metals in Canada during the calendar year 1916*. (Ottawa: Dept. of Mines, Mines Branch. 1917. Pp. 76.)

*Report of the resources and production of iron ores and other principal metalliferous ores used in the iron and steel industry of the United Kingdom*. (London: Dept. of Scientific and Industrial Research. 1917. Pp. 145. 2s.)

*Summary report of the Department of Mines for calendar year ending December 31, 1916*. (Ottawa: Dept. Mines. 1917. Pp. viii, 183.)

### Transportation and Communication

*Railway Rates and the Canadian Railway Commission*. By DUNCAN A. MACGIBBON. Hart, Schaffner and Marx Prize Essays, XXIV. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company. 1917. Pp. 257. \$1.75.)

Part I of this work contains a historical survey of Canadian waterways and railroads, and part II is devoted to the specific problem of railway regulation and the functions and achievements of the Board of Railway Commissioners. It is clear, therefore, that Mr. MacGibbon has done a good deal more than merely to pose the problem of railway rates in theory and practice in Canada. It is patent also that it was essential to survey the field of water and rail transportation in the Dominion in order that a background might be obtained for the adequate discussion of the problems of rate regulation.

Aside from official records and general works on the history of traffic and transportation in the Dominion, there are available—with the exception of miscellaneous contemporary articles and pamphlets—few works of value on Canadian transportation. The general works include Trout's *Railways of Canada*, McLean's *National Highways Overland*, and Skelton's *Railway Builders*. Obviously, therefore, in view of Canada's railroad history, both with respect to its uniqueness and its close relation to the political development of the nation, Professor MacGibbon's work is doubly welcome.